

# National Heritage Areas Alliance Update

ANHA

## National Heritage Areas:

### *A Collaborative Approach to Conservation and Heritage Development*

In National Heritage Areas, residents, businesses, and governments work in partnership to promote conservation, community revitalization and economic development projects. Long-term heritage area success depends upon the willing support and activities of local organizations and residents, who collaborate from the very beginning to develop and implement an area's mission and goals. This cooperative approach allows heritage areas to achieve both conservation and economic growth in ways that do not compromise local land use controls. Participation in National Heritage Area projects and programs is always voluntary with zoning and land use decisions remaining under the jurisdiction of local governments.

Examples of this unique, collaborative approach to heritage development are found across the country in communities stretching from Arizona to Massachusetts. In the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area (SRNHA), a region encompassing the Schuylkill River watershed in eastern Pennsylvania, heritage area staff partner with over 60 individuals, businesses, and public and private organizations to organize the Schuylkill River Sojourn - a seven-day, 113-mile guided canoe/kayak trip held yearly during the first week of June.

Like SRNHA, Cane River National Heritage Area, in northwestern Louisiana, also pursues a partnership-based approach to project management. By working with a wide variety of communities, cultural organizations, and subject matter experts, the heritage area is successfully documenting the diverse stories and unique traditions of the surrounding region in an authentic, accurate and inclusive manner. This information is shared with residents and visitors through the development of educational materials, interpretive brochures, exhibits, films and the

protection of historic sites and structures.

The activities of National Coal Heritage Area, located in the coalfields of southern West Virginia, are also playing a role in community development. Through a partnership with other state



*Above: Natchitoches, LA in Cane River NHA*

*Left: Sojourn Paddlers credit: Cody Goddard*

*Below: Visitors to the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine*

agencies, the heritage area has contributed to the development of a new interpretive center at the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, a regional tourist attraction. In supporting the new facility, which is scheduled to open in April 2008, the heritage area has not only aided economic development, but also cultural conservation in a region rich in mining history.

The National Park Service (NPS) also plays a unique role in ensuring the success of National Heritage Areas by providing technical, planning and financial assistance. Rather than own or directly manage the land, as in traditional NPS units, the Park Service acts as a partner and advisor, leaving ultimate decision-making authority in the hands of local people and organizations. Residents are empowered to not only participate in, but also direct large-scale conservation projects.



According to the 2006 National Park Service Advisory Board report *Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas*, "National Heritage Areas represent a significant advance in conservation and historic preservation: large scale, community-centered initiatives collaborating across political jurisdictions to protect nationally important landscapes and living cultures." Committed to both protecting and promoting the historic, cultural and natural assets of a region, National Heritage Areas can and do play a vital role in maintaining both the physical character and cultural legacy of the United States.

## Legislative Update

**(S. 278)** The National Heritage Areas Partnership Act was reported out of committee on September 17 and is currently awaiting floor action in the Senate. This bill seeks to establish criteria for and a system of National Heritage Areas (NHAs) in the United States. Under this act, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide technical and financial assistance to local coordinating entities to support the development and implementation of management plans for the NHAs. The bill also specifies the criteria that the Secretary shall apply to determine the feasibility of designating proposed NHAs.

**H.R. 4285 (Butterfield, D-NC)** - To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Northeastern North Carolina Heritage Area in North Carolina.

For a complete list of other bills introduced in the 110th Congress related to National Heritage Areas, visit <http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/LEG/legislation.pdf>

# News from the Heritage Areas



## Lackawanna Heritage Valley National Heritage Area (LHVNHA) Awards Ten Education Mini Grants

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority hosted an awards ceremony for its Educational Mini-Grant Program on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum in Scranton, PA. Executive Director Natalie Gelb Solfanelli presented ten grants of \$500 to educators for projects that promote an understanding of the rich heritage of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley, or that develop an understanding of the students' role as caretakers of the environment, particularly the Lackawanna River watershed. The projects will involve over 1,000 students throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. Many of these projects feature a multi-disciplinary approach that utilizes the performing and visual arts as well as traditional academic curricula.

## 2008 Erie Canalway Calendar Ready for the Public

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's annual photo contest recently culminated in a 2008 Erie Canalway calendar. This year's photo contest drew nearly 100 entrants and a total of 288 photographs. A panel of judges selected winning images in four contest categories: History & Heritage, People on the Canal, Heritage Festivals & Events, and Seasons on the Canal.

Each month features one of twelve winning images that capture the beauty, history, people, or character of New York's canals and canal communities. The calendar and photo contest

aim to encourage exploration of the Erie Canalway's many treasures. Erie Canalway NHC distributed 4,000 free calendars via libraries and visitor centers throughout the Corridor

## New York State National Heritage Areas Hold Joint Meeting

On November 15th, The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area met with representatives from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership at the Saratoga National Battlefield in Stillwater, New York. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the unique opportunity for the three New York State National Heritage Areas to collaborate on future initiatives, coordinate



resources, and compliment each other's mission and interpretation. Future meetings will focus on projects and collaborations designed to promote the nationally significant resources present in these areas.

## Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commissioners Introduced to Public

The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commissioners were introduced to the public at a press conference in Charleston, SC on October 29th. An audience of over 200, including U.S. House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn (SC-6) and U.S. House Member Henry Brown (SC-1), attended the event. "The story of the Gullah/Geechee people and their contributions to this country began in 1619 when the first Africans arrived at the Jamestown settlement," Congressman Clyburn said. "After more than seven years of work to establish this corridor,

today marks the first day of the hard work this commission will undertake to preserve and share that nearly 400-year history that is the core purpose of this initiative." Established by the



*Congressman James Clyburn addresses newly appointed Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commissioners*

Secretary of the Interior to oversee the development and management of the Corridor, the Commission includes recognized experts in the fields of historic preservation, anthropology, and folklore. The NPS and the State Historic Preservation Officers for the States of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina nominated the Commission members.

## Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area Hosts International Agricultural Scientists

For the second year in a row, a group of agricultural scientists from around the world toured the Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area. As part of the week long "World Food Symposium," 47 scientists from 17 different countries visited a wide variety of sites in the NHA, including the Plant Sciences Institute on the campus of Iowa State University and a prairie and wetlands restoration project.



## Publications and Resources

### Nominations for Most Endangered Historic Places

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is now accepting nominations for its next America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list. The 2008 list will be announced in May. The Trust uses the list as a tool in the fight to save America's irreplaceable architectural, cultural, and natural heritage. The deadline to submit nominations is January 4, 2008.

### Vernacular Architecture Forum Launches New Award for Advocacy

The VAF offers an Award for Advocacy to encourage citizen-based advocacy and to recognize exemplary efforts and achievements on behalf of our vernacular built heritage. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2008. For the full award requirements and nomination process contact VAF Preservation Officer Anthony Veerkamp at 415-947-0692, x 38228 or [anthony\\_veerkamp@nthp.org](mailto:anthony_veerkamp@nthp.org). To learn more about the VAF, visit: <http://www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org/>





# Conferences, Workshops and Events

## Preserving the Historic Road 2008

The 6th biennial "Preserving the Historic Road" conference will take place in Albuquerque, New Mexico from September 11-14, 2008. The event aims to bring together transportation professionals and historic preservationists to discuss the plight of the nation's historic roads through educational sessions, general sessions and field tours to historic roads' sites. Visit <http://historicroads.org/> for more information.

## Designing the Parks Conference

Designing the Parks is a two-part conference examining the design of buildings and landscapes in regional, state and national parks. The conference is sponsored by the University of Virginia, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service. Part I will be held in Charlottesville, VA (May 20-22, 2008) and Part II in San Francisco (Fall 2008).

In Charlottesville, the meeting will be hosted by the University of Virginia and the papers presented will address the history of the planning and design of regional, state, and national parks. The San Francisco meeting, which will be held at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, will explore current issues and future trends in park planning and design, building on the research presented at the Charlottesville meeting.

## Ed W. Clark III Detailed as National Coordinator for Heritage Areas

Ed W. Clark has agreed to serve on a detail as the National Coordinator for Heritage Areas. This position provides budget, legislative and policy support to the 37 congressionally designated heritage areas. Clark is currently the Deputy Chief Ranger at Shenandoah National Park. Clark has extensive experience in budget management, community partnerships and inter-governmental relations, working collaboratively on the local, state and federal levels. Prior to assuming his current position, Clark served as Project Manager for the 14,000 acre Green Springs National Historic Landmark District in Central Virginia. He directed the district's easements program, handled legal affairs, and built relationships with a wide variety of private landowners, government bodies and non-profit groups. He can be reached at 202-354-2222 or [ed\\_w\\_clark@nps.gov](mailto:ed_w_clark@nps.gov), beginning December 10, 2007.

The National Heritage Areas Coordinator position will be advertised later this month, open to all sources.

# Partners Column

## New York State Heritage Area Program Sponsors Heritage Development Forum

New York State has a multi-layered network of heritage designations and programs which includes twenty state, and three federal Heritage Areas and Corridors. With the year 2007 marking the 25th anniversary of the New York State Heritage Area Program, a Heritage Development Forum, held on November 13th in Troy NY, was an opportune time for both retrospection and looking ahead to the future. The New York State Heritage Area Program, joined by National Heritage partners in the Erie Canalway and Hudson River Valley, sponsored the Forum.

Over 160 people attended included representatives from a variety of different backgrounds and heritage professions. Forum participants described exemplary projects, reflected on commonalities, set priorities, and generated strategies for the future. Past achievements were presented side-by-side with contemporary trends, including Governor Eliot Spitzer's new Smart Growth initiatives. Proceedings from the forum are now being compiled and will be used to help chart a future for heritage development in New York State.

The Heritage Development Resource Guide was compiled by staff of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for use by those who work on heritage-related issues and programs. The Guide contains common definitions and brief profiles of the organizations and agencies that are doing heritage related work in New York State. The guide is available on line at: [http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/heritage/herit\\_area.asp](http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/heritage/herit_area.asp) For additional information, contact [Marcia.kees@oprhp.state.ny.us](mailto:Marcia.kees@oprhp.state.ny.us).

*Photo: NY State Caption: The Heritage Development Forum was an occasion to honor exceptional achievements. A special award was presented to Congressman Maurice Hinchey, a longtime champion of heritage development, who, in addition to sponsoring New York State's 1982 heritage legislation while serving in the State Assembly, sponsored designation of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Hinchey (left) received the award from presenters David Altieri, Sackets Harbor Heritage Area Director and President of the New York Heritage Area Association (center), and Andy Beers, NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Executive Deputy Commissioner.*



## For more information on heritage areas, please visit our websites.

*The Alliance Update is a partnership project of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program.*

Send your heritage area events and news to the editor by the 18th of the month for inclusion in the following month's bulletin.

Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

- Reach the editor at [Eleanor\\_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:Eleanor_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov)
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# Assistance

## National Geographic Conservation Trust Grants

The objective of the Conservation Trust is to support conservation activities around the world as they fit within the mission of the National Geographic Society. The trust will fund projects that contribute significantly to the preservation and sustainable use of the Earth's biological, cultural, and historical resources. The deadline is December 31, 2007.

For more information: Visit:  
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/research/grant/rg2.html>

## National Trust Offers Grant Funds

February 1, 2008 is the postmark deadline for applications to three grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation: the Johanna Favrot Fund, the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund and the National Preservation Fund. Under these programs, grants are available to nonprofit organizations and municipalities. The funds are intended to support planning for preservation-related projects. They require a dollar-for-dollar match and cannot be used for bricks-and mortar work.

For further information, please write visit [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org).

## Environmental Training Grants

Grants for environmental training and technical assistance to strengthen nonprofit environmental organizations in areas including fund raising, organizational development, and planning are now available. Applications can be from regional, statewide, or local grass-roots organizations serving low-income or minority constituencies that have environmental issues as a significant part of the organization's agenda. Visit <http://www.envsc.org/> for more information.

## Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area

The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA) tells the "whole story" of America's Greatest Challenge, 1860-1875, through Civil War and Reconstruction-era resources across the state. It represents a partnership-based effort to



*Doe Creek School Restoration Project*

preserve, enhance, interpret, and promote the legacy of the Civil War and its aftermath in Tennessee. It is the only Heritage Area to encompass an entire state and the only Heritage Area administered by a university. Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation manages the TCWNHA as its largest statewide program.

Tennessee's landscape is rich in sites and resources that tell the state's powerful Civil War and Reconstruction stories. The profound impact of the Civil War touched every county in the state, and the Heritage Area strives to recount this past in a diverse and inclusive manner, incorporating the homefront, the demands of fighting and occupation, the pain of slavery, and the freedom and challenges of emancipation and Reconstruction in its interpretation.

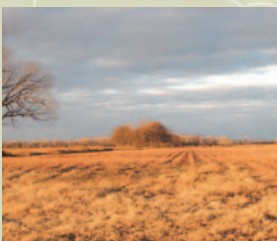
Residents and visitors experience the Civil War's social, economic, and military impact first-hand by visiting Tennessee's historic homes, battlefields, museums, farms, and Reconstruction-era African American neighborhoods. The Heritage Area partners with these sites and organizations to develop programs in education, interpretation, resource conservation, and economic development. Staff frequently provide assistance at no cost and the Heritage Area also offers opportunities for non-profit groups to apply for matching funds for interpretive and planning projects focused on the Civil War and Reconstruction-era.



*Workshop held during IHDC 2005 in Tennessee*

In 2005, the Heritage Area hosted the Alliance of National Heritage Area's International Heritage Development Conference (IHDC). The interactive forum, with sessions on best practices, public-private partnerships, and new heritage development tools, drew national and international heritage development professionals and leaders to Tennessee. Attendees not only participated in workshops, but also visited Heritage Area sites around the state.

Recent projects have focused on heritage tourism and development initiatives that aim to tell all the state's stories – both the familiar and the less well known. The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, a public-private partnership, was the year's signature project. The Center's exhibits, tours, and programs emphasize the city and the county's rich history as a Civil War battlefield and occupied city, encouraging visitors to experience the past first-hand by visiting the individual sites. The TCWNHA also completed a restoration plan for Doe Creek School, a rural log schoolhouse built during Reconstruction. In a single year, this small



*Credit: Carroll Van West*

rural community partnered with the Heritage Area to develop a Restoration Committee, raise restoration funds, and complete renovations. In July 2007, the fully restored schoolhouse was dedicated before a crowd of over 500 attendees. Finally, the Heritage Area was recently appointed to the governor's Sesquicentennial Planning Commission with the goal of developing plans for the Civil War's 150th anniversary.

Through innovative and broad-based partnerships, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area continues its mission of telling the whole story of the Civil War. New educational, tourism, and recreational opportunities for the state's residents and visitors are currently under consideration, including projects such as guidebooks, driving tours, museum exhibits, and educational materials. To learn more, visit <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar/>.

TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR  
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA